

# EDITORIALS

## Decidedly Timely

In a recent release of his widely read column, Roger W. Babson supplies advice on the automobile parking problem that is decidedly timely for Torrance.

Mr. Babson calls the merchants "the lifeblood of every city" and warns that communities failing to "buy or condemn property for parking are making a great mistake."

Torrance certainly has reached a time for decision. In view of the tremendous population growth the community has had in the past several years, further inaction could prove a serious threat to community progress. The city as a whole would suffer most extensively if there is retrogression in the central shopping district and this can result when shoppers are inconvenienced.

Says Mr. Babson: "Cities which now do not buy or condemn property needed for parking are making a great mistake. The longer they wait, the more the needed property will cost. Municipal governments which are delaying this work because some influential family or obstinate church objects are handicapping most of the merchants and are driving trade away. Owners of all business real estate will suffer. Yet these merchants are the lifeblood of every city."

To our knowledge some of the larger property owners in Torrance have come forward with liberal, non-profit offers to do their part in solving the local situation. In this they should have the gratitude and co-operation of the community. Certainly, it will be far better for the present business area to improve and expand than for several shopping areas to grow up on a hit or miss basis. They may be a temporary stopgap; but, they are not the long range solution to the problem.

## A Serious Thought

The present Torrance business section has much room for further expansion. It can and must provide for the shopping needs of this community for many years to come. There is not now, and will not be for some years to come, even partial use of the facilities at hand. Just as in every other community that has grown fast, there is room for improvement. But, generally, the planners with foresight need not look too far beyond the present business center and its immediate fringe areas—notably Torrance boulevard—for immediate needs.

There are strong arguments for expansion of present shopping areas, not the least of which is the safety of slow-moving traffic. Shopping centers, placed haphazardly on main highways, present a very real threat to the safety of women shoppers. Traffic in congested areas, such as Torrance, is slowed down to a safe speed and women and their children can alight from cars without the ever present fear of fast moving traffic. Irrespective of the size of a new shopping center—deluxe as it may be—it still does not offer the variety of a center like Torrance which has developed over a long period of time.

More parking lots are needed in Torrance. One way to buy them and assure hundreds of additional spaces for cars, is to install parking meters. It is inevitable that some objections meet any proposal for change or progress and Torrance's efforts to meet the problem will be no exception. This heightens the need for courageous and far-sighted leadership in charting the city's future.

## On Sunburn

At the risk of being considered a pessimist, this writer assumes the position of amateur authority on the timely topic of sunburn. Frankly, we have been impressed with the quality of the feminine surfaces, hereabouts, that might conceivably be exposed to something brighter than the flash bulbs of ambitious cameramen—and women. We can't help but be a little worried about sunburn.

Now the vagaries of this season have, to all practical purposes, minimized the sunburn problem. There have been many more sunless days, in the mornings at least, than Torrance ordinarily knows, yet, we're told by experts, it is not always the brightness of the day that causes fatal burns. On slightly overcast days, the solar rays can filter through and be as powerful as the bright sunlight.

We do not know too much about the rays of the sun other than that they are extremely powerful. Some patients are exposed to the rays of the sun for treatment, especially lung victims, but it is safe to assume that if beneficial results can be secured, there is always the possibility of harmful effects.

The subject of sunburn brings up the topic of pigmentation, type and temperament. Blondes sunburn easily while brunettes simply tan. Our photographers tell us that in Torrance we have variety but, they hastily add, they are all beautiful and, to their knowledge, they reflect the all-together pleasing climate we enjoy.

## Respect Learning

This is the season when young men and women with impressive degrees are invading the fields of business and industry. It is a good time for all of us, not to underestimate their intelligence.

Too many people take every opportunity to say smart things about the men and women of book intelligence, implying that it is something amusing, something to make wisecracks about.

No problem of the world will be solved by emotion. No great benefit comes to the world except by change. Thousands of experiments would have been valueless without a trained mind to read their messages and evaluate them truthfully.

It is all right for those of us who have had it through the years, to take pride in our experience. We like to think these years have been a distinct asset to us. However, let us not under estimate the value of book intelligence—the kind of intelligence recognized on the sheepskin.

Experience and intelligence together will solve many problems that neither, alone, can handle. The man without either is handicapped badly. He who pokes fun at the man who carries the evidence of faithful completion of formal education is as foolish as the man or woman who thinks the diploma is the open sesame to all opportunity.

## Real Goodwill

Torrance Rotarians last week were given a graphic portrayal of the work of Goodwill Industries, an organization that has done much to aid the handicapped and make them feel as though they were important threads in the fabric of productive life.

With the aid of color sound motion pictures, the Rotarians saw people at work, who had suffered crippling misfortune, apparently cheerful and hopeful.

This is real rehabilitation at work. Next time you are asked to help Goodwill Industries do so with the assurance that you are helping a great cause.

November 11th no longer will be known as Armistice Day, following recent signing of a bill by President Eisenhower officially designating it "Veteran's Day". Thus the day will honor American service veterans of all wars.

Congratulations to Olveta Culp Hobby for the elimination of some 238 security risks, including 114 suspected subversives, from her Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Here is a campaign promise that is being kept.

## Father Of The Bride



## THE MAIL BOX

(The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for matters of libel and good taste. Letters should be kept brief and must be signed. The writer's name will be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.)

### Doctors Answer

June 21, 1954.

Editor,

Where the Health and safety of the community is concerned, as it is in the matter of Hospital facilities, it is not a partisan or a personal matter and selfish interest should be set aside. In their place, should be presented the facts involved in the hospital needs of the community and the possible ways of meeting these needs.

Because of hospital facilities, and specifically the proposed expansions of the Torrance Memorial Hospital, are of vital interest to everyone in this entire community, we believe that every citizen has a right to the facts. No one can be expected to form an accurate opinion based upon the statements recently published, so many of which have no basis in fact, are grossly misleading, and were apparently published by misinformed persons.

The Torrance Memorial Hospital, a nonprofit institution, was donated in 1924 by the heirs of Jared Sidney Torrance, and as the original trust provides, is governed by a board of directors chosen by the Hospital Association. The Hospital Association is composed of a group of interested local citizens and membership is open by application to the Hospital Board. The board must specifically consist of three women, four businessmen, and two doctors, all of whom serve on a voluntary basis. This board has through the years done an excellent job of governing the hospital and has expanded the facilities of the hospital. The original hospital of 25 beds has been expanded twice; first to 41 beds, and later to 63 beds. These expansions have been carried out without the expenditure of an ounce of new money from community funds. Now, with the unprecedented growth of the community, there is need for additional beds and equipment, and the Hospital Board is endeavoring to furnish these additional facilities.

This present proposed expansion will increase the hospital to a capacity of 99 beds, which is a minimum size for most efficient hospital operation. The Torrance Hospital can never practically be expanded more because of state regulations governing type of construction of hospitals of more than 100 beds. The proposed addition involves enlarging of the surgical wing, expansion of the operating rooms and construction of an entire new maternity wing. The maternity wing is required to meet the State Health Department standards. The cost will be approximately \$375,000 and the financing will be handled as heretofore by the Hospital board.

The old Christian Church building adjoining the hospital, which was constructed before the days of building restrictions, has been carefully studied by the Hospital Board and the hospital architect, and it is im-

possible to make it conform to the standards set up by the Bureau of Hospitals of the Department of Health of the State of California in regard to hospital construction. Therefore, it cannot be used in any way as a hospital and is in no way qualified for present or future hospital needs.

Under the terms of the Jared Sidney Torrance Trust, hospital expansion is entirely a function and a responsibility of the board and not of the Hospital Staff.

The proposed hospital expansion provides for an additional number of parking spaces as required by the city ordinance.

There is no reason to believe that the proposed hospital expansion will be other than an artistic building, and it is favored by a large majority of the affected property owners on both sides of the street in front of the hospital.

In regard to future needs, it is realized a hospital of 99 beds is inadequate to serve this entire community, and your attention is called to the fact that members of the medical profession have started proceedings to form a hospital centrally located between Torrance and the beach cities. This movement was started well over two years ago and it will be three to five more years, if not longer, before it materializes. An additional hospital of this type will cost about four million dollars. In the meantime, people get sick, babies are born and emergencies arise. The Torrance Memorial Hospital, which has rendered excellent service to the community with its limited facilities, could do much better with 36 additional beds. Based on the present average length of hospital stay, 36 additional beds would enable the hospital to serve 216 additional patients per month. Based on present and expected growth, by the time it is possible to erect a larger hospital, this southwest area will need both the expanded Torrance Hospital and the new one. According to the State Health Department survey, this area is at present the third most critical in the state, in regard to shortage of hospital beds.

Many months ago, both the Torrance Memorial Hospital Board and Hospital Staff investigated carefully the desirability of acquiring the Christian Church property. It was decided that, since it is feasible to expand to the 99-bed limit on the present hospital property, the health needs of the community would be benefited more by investment of hospital facilities and equipment used directly in the care of patients than by investment in additional ground, namely the Christian Church lot.

The proposed hospital addition will provide considerable space not regularly used for beds, which will be available for use in case of major disaster.

In the present hospital, there are only two rooms for labor and delivery of maternity patients, and in these two rooms there are delivered 130 to 150 mothers per month. Since it is impossible to regulate maternity cases in regard to the exact time of delivery, occasionally there have been as many as nine expectant mothers in labor at one time with only maternity facilities of two rooms. The United States has the lowest obstetrical mortality in the world, largely due to the fact that most mothers are delivered in well regulated hospitals. Adequate care is at best difficult under these present conditions. It should be mentioned that the labor and delivery rooms are at present in the same wing with the operating rooms, and the hospital has been ordered by the State Health Department to remove them from this location. Also, there are at present only sixteen maternity beds which means some mothers must return home immediately after delivery and many must do so within 24 to 48 hours. A minimum of 24 maternity beds is needed and in the proposed type of hospital expansion the number of maternity beds is limited to 25% of the total.

The request for variance made through the usual channels by the Hospital Board in order to begin construction of the additions provides for extending the two wings closer to the front property line than average. Application for a variance is a normal, frequent and proper procedure. After two hearings and a thorough investigation the Torrance City Planning Commission recommended this variance.

It is hoped that these pertinent facts will bring support to the efforts of the Torrance Memorial Hospital Board in securing the necessary variance for these badly needed additional hospital facilities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerald M. Eastham, M.D., Chief of Staff  
Eugene C. Cook, M.D., George C. Anderson, M.D., John W. Beaman, M.D., By: Howard A. Wood, M.D., Chairman of Committee.

## IS ALASKA READY FOR STATEHOOD?

Juneau, Alaska

I have just come from the interior of Alaska to the picturesque southeast coast, continuing my lectures through Anchorage, Ketchikan and Alaska's capitol of Juneau. In this stretch of some thousand miles you get an impression of two different Alaskas in natural beauty, climate and grassroots thinking. Interior Alaska, with the hub at Fairbanks, could be compared to the rugged frontier towns of Fargo or Grand Forks, where winter temperatures reach 60 below zero. The majestic Alaska Range and Mt. McKinley, highest in North America, are close by, forming an unending pattern of virgin, natural beauty unspoiled by the necessities or excesses of human expansions. This is the newer, less developed part of Alaska and the least populated.

On the southeast coast, from Anchorage to Ketchikan, winter temperatures average around zero and form an arc consisting of one of the most picturesque coastlines I ever saw anywhere in the world. From the magnificent glaciers to the breathtaking relief of snow-covered mountains, islands and sea, it is a naturalist's paradise unsurpassed by anything I ever saw in my travels around the globe. This is the oldest and most populated part of Alaska and the center of its political, economic and cultural life.

### Most Alaskans Want Statehood

For grassroots reaction on the controversial subject of statehood, this reporter sought out official and non-official opinion, the pros and cons from government officials, such as my host in Juneau, Alaska's popular Attorney General, J. Gerald Williams; Alaska's Treasurer, pioneer Henry Roden, who came to Alaska 52 years ago from his native Switzerland; able Alexander Baird, director of Alaska's Development Bureau in Juneau; Mrs. Ladessa Nordale, Federal Commissioner, Dr. E. I. Bagen, and Dr. Patty, President of the noted University of Alaska, all of Fairbanks. I spent an evening in the dream lodge-home of Robert Atwood, influential publisher and editor of Alaska's great newspaper, "Anchorage Times," who has devoted so much of his time and talents to the cause of statehood. Another evening with friendly Norman Brown, publisher and editor of the "Anchorage News," who sincerely takes the position that Alaska is not yet ready for statehood.

Also with civic minded citizens such as my host in Ketchikan, distinguished Torrance on Dr. Dwight Cramer; Miss Geneva Hubbard, President, Toastmistress Club; Rev. Frank Walkup, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Anchorage, and many others, up and down the social ladder of the Territory.

My impressions and conclusions are that most Alaskans prefer statehood. I found very few who opposed to statehood as a permanent policy, the majority of those in opposition holding the opinion that Alaska is not yet ready economically to carry the financial load for statehood at the present time. Every sign indicates, however, that if a referendum was taken on the question today, the majority of Alaska's citizens would support statehood for reasons of personal pride more than anything else.

Objections to Statehood The case against statehood now is based on these reasons: 1. It now costs the people of Alaska about \$13,000,000 annually to operate the Territorial Government of Alaska and under statehood this would increase to about \$27,000,000, a back-breaking tax load for less than 150,000 citizens.

2. The great distances in Alaska require abnormal costs in the operation of such agencies as health, welfare, roads, education, law enforcement, etc., which under statehood would increase even more.

3. It may take years for Alaska to develop its potential resources and the burden of higher taxation under statehood may deter rather than encourage risk capital from investment in Alaska.

4. Under the present territorial status the U. S. Government maintains a special interest in Alaska and spends much money, which it would not do if it were a state.

5. Alaska is too remote from the States to develop mutual interests economically in roads, law enforcement, and general waterways, reciprocities, which are possible between states bordering on each other. These are the most important objections I heard in Alaska against statehood.

The Case for Statehood Those in favor of statehood present moral as well as economic reasons:

1. It hurts their pride to be considered as "second-class" citizens for 86 years, while paying the same income taxes as the citizens of the 48 states, but unable to vote in a presidential election.

2. The population of Alaska is now greater than that of 28 states at the time of their admittance into the Union. It is inherent in the American system of government that territorial status implies a promise of statehood, but not yet fulfilled. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787, setting up the terms of statehood, called for a population of 60,000 and Alaska has more than twice that many now.

3. The Territory of Alaska is now under the power of the Secretary of the Interior, who rules by executive order under a bureaucracy thousands of miles from Alaska. Expansion of natural resources is prevented by tight federal laws, politics, under rules of "conservation", contrary to the encouragement of the pioneers of America who were allowed to assume private ownership of resources for their immediate development.

4. Alaskans can pay the cost of statehood if allowed to develop their own resources through private initiative. Such a step would increase the population, investments, trade and the income from Alaska's enormous underground wealth.

5. Those in favor of statehood submit an annual budget under statehood of some \$19,000,000, about \$8,000,000 less than the figure of the opposition. These advocates produce other statistics that indicate that with some federal assistance during their "growing pains" of statehood, Alaska can well pay its way in a short time.

## AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

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Statehood and Washington Politics This reporter discovered in Washington (what informed Alaskans already know) that statehood does not entirely hinge on Alaska's "right to be a state" . . . on its "people's preferences" . . . or in the "ability to finance state government" but also on important political implications. Right now the word I heard gains around in Washington's Republican "cloak-rooms" on Alaska statehood can be summed down in one sentence: The Republicans fear that statehood may bring to Washington two Democratic senators and one Democratic representative. On the determination of this question probably more than any other, it seems to this reporter, the fate of Alaska's statehood rests today.

We saw in Alaska an area one-fifth the size of the United States without equal in natural beauty in all the 48 states . . . we saw a territory unsurpassed in potential resources and development . . . we saw a brave, pioneer spirit in its people, so conspicuously absent in the smug and indifferent state-side world . . . and we discovered a paternalistic and humiliating Washington attitude toward the people of Alaska which was neither the original intent of those who wisely acquired it for the Nation, nor of those in government who for 86 years encouraged American citizens to sacrifice and explore the wilderness, risk and pioneer its development in the American spirit for promised statehood and for the national good.

The choice of statehood should rest with the people of Alaska and not with the "people" in Washington. At a time when the Federal Treasury can afford billions in gifts to develop so much of the outside world, it can well afford to finance Alaska's statehood until such time as the new state can carry its own weight. This will remove the one main objection and unite the people of Alaska in support of the 49th state.

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